

CLAIMS

1. In a computer system including a data bus and a plurality of devices coupled to the data bus, a method comprising steps of:

- (A) addressing a first subset of the plurality of devices using a primary address shared by the first subset of the plurality of devices;
- (B) addressing a second subset of the plurality of devices using a secondary address shared by the second subset of the plurality of devices, wherein the second subset comprises a subset of the first subset; and
- (C) transmitting information over the data bus to the second subset of the plurality of devices.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (A) comprises a step of transmitting the primary address over the data bus, and wherein the step (B) comprises a step of transmitting the secondary address over the data bus.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data bus comprises a serial data bus.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data bus comprises an I²C bus.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second subset comprises a single device in the first subset of the plurality of devices.

6. In a computer system including a data bus and a plurality of devices coupled to the data bus, an apparatus comprising:

means for addressing a first subset of the plurality of devices using a primary address shared by the first subset of the plurality of devices;

means for addressing a second subset of the plurality of devices using a secondary address shared by the second subset of the plurality of devices, wherein the second subset comprises a subset of the first subset; and

means for transmitting information over the data bus to the second subset of the plurality of devices.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for addressing the first subset of the plurality of devices comprises means for transmitting over the primary address over the data bus, and wherein the means for addressing the second subset of the plurality of devices comprises means for transmitting the secondary address over the data bus.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the data bus comprises a serial data bus.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the data bus comprises an I²C bus.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the second subset comprises a single device in the first subset of the plurality of devices.

11. In a computer system including a data bus and a plurality of devices coupled to the data bus, a method performed by a first one of the plurality of devices, the method comprising steps of:

- (A) receiving a primary address over the data bus from a second one of the plurality of devices;
- (B) receiving a secondary address over the data bus from the second one of the plurality of devices;
- (C) determining whether the primary address is associated with the first one of the plurality of devices;
- (D) if it is determined in the step (C) that the primary address is associated with the first one of the plurality of devices, determining whether the secondary address is associated with the first one of the plurality of devices; and
- (E) if it is determined in the step (D) that the secondary address is associated with the first one of the plurality of devices, receiving information from the second one of the plurality of devices over the data bus.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data bus comprises a serial data bus.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the data bus comprises an I²C bus.

14. In a computer system including a data bus, an apparatus comprising:

means receiving a primary address over the data bus from a particular one of the plurality of devices;

means for receiving a secondary address over the data bus from the particular one of the plurality of devices;

first means for determining whether the primary address is associated with the apparatus;

second means for determining, if the first means for determining determines that the primary address is associated with the apparatus, whether the secondary address is associated with the apparatus; and

means for receiving information from the particular one of the plurality of devices over the data bus if the second means for determining determines that the secondary address is associated with the apparatus.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data bus comprises a serial data bus.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data bus comprises an I²C bus.